

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, AU

SUBJ: NEXT AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER - WILLIBALD PAHR?

1. DR. WILLIBALD PAHR, HEAD OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SECTION IN CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, IS ODDS ON FAVORITE TO BE NAMED IN MID-AUGUST NEXT AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ACCORDING TO STRONG HINTS CONTAINED IN KREISKY'S COMMENTS TO PRESS ON JULY 22. SPECULATION FOCUSED ON LIKELY NOMINATION OF PAHR TO TOP MFA POSITION IN WAKE OF CHANCELLOR'S UNEXPECTED DISPATCH OF PAHR TO BELGRADE JULY 14-15 AS SPECIAL EMISSARY TO EXPLAIN MINORITIES LEGISLATION TO GOY.

2. PAHR, IF IN FACT NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER, SEEMS TO MEET MOST OF CHANCELLOR'S ANNOUNCED CRITERIA FOR POSITION. HE IS YOUNG (46 YEARS), OF MIDDLE CLASS ORIGIN AND CATHOLIC; HAS SOUND LEGAL TRAINING WITH REPUTATION AS EXPERT IN AUSTRIAN CONSTITUTION AND IN INTERNATIONAL LAW; IS POLITICALLY UNAFFILIATED; AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ENJOYS FULL CONFIDENCE OF CHANCELLOR. HE IS ALSO GOA'S RANKING EXPERT ON MOST ASPECT OF SLOVENIAN MINORITY CONTROVERSY AND COULD BE EXPECTED AS FOREIGN MINISTER TO RELIEVE KREISKY OF MORE ONEROUS TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. IN THIS REGARD, AND IN VIEW OF HIS LOYALTY TO CHANCELLOR, PAHR'S NOMINATION WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH KREISKY'S OBVIOUS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE

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TO BE HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER. TRINKA

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